submitted a proposal for expansion of health-care in the State, particularly in remote areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has proposed for establishment of some super special hospitals in most backward areas of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Standards for medical equipments

2059. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of doctors in the country choose medical devices for their kickbacks rather than quality, while Government do not even pretend to regulate manufacture and sale of medical equipments;

(b) whether it is a fact that one cannot sell an aspirin without a licence but one can sell coronary stents, hips and knees without meeting a single regulation; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure the safety of patients undergoing operations for life threatening diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations 2002 made under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, enjoins upon each doctor to uphold and honor his profession and not to indulge in unethical acts like advertising/endorsement for therapeutic article/apparatus/appliances etc. In so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned there has been no reported incidence of choosing medical devices for kickbacks. The Medical devices are chosen on quality basis as per prescribed procurement procedure.

The Government is regulating manufacture and marketing of only those Medical devices, which are notified under Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. Sterile disposable perfusion sets, Sterile disposable Hypodermic Syringes and Sterile disposable Needles for single use only, In vitro Diagnostics devices for HIV.

HbsAg & HCV are notified under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and are regulated. Coronary stents, hips and knees are not notified under the said Act.

Use of banned anti-malaria drug quinacrine

2060. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a ban on anti-malaria drug 'Quinacrine' for dual use as a female contraceptive, hundreds of ignorant women in rural West Bengal are still being pushed the cheap chemical that has carcinogenic properties;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 10,000 women in West Bengal could be among probable victims of the drug; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop the use of banned drug?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Government no such case been reported.

(c) Necessary legal action under the relevant provisions; Drugs and Cosmetics Acts and Rules will be taken, if any such incidents are reported.

Correct level of blood pressure

2061. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports in print media that the diastolic/systolic reading of blood pressure at 120/80 which was considered to be ideal till recently is now regarded as high calling for immediate medical attention;